

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 7-10 are in the application. Claims 8 and 10 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 3, 5, and 8 under 35 USC §112 for indefiniteness. Applicants have amended claim 8 to delete the word "preferably". Applicants submit that the claims are now in compliance with 35 USC §112.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 8, 9, and 10 under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Bertels, and rejected claims 3 and 7 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Bertels in view of Persson. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Bertels in view of Kunz et al. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner states that a thickness of the iron sheet of 2 mm is indicated in the exemplary embodiment of Bertels. The distance of the iron sheet 31 from the aluminum sheet 32 is 2 mm, and the width b of the seam 35 is 8 mm. Since the seam symmetrically covers both sheets 31 and 32, this means that the

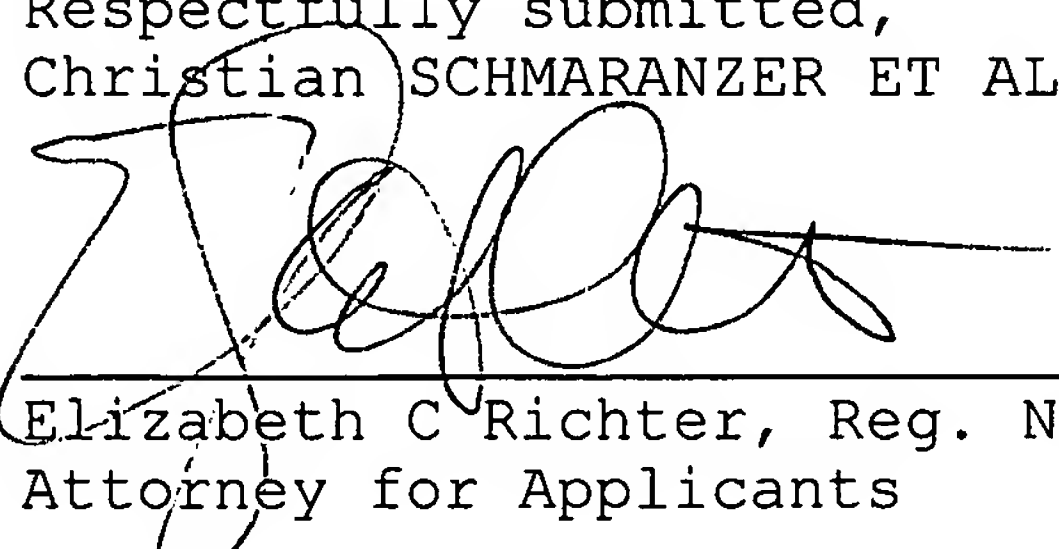
edge 33 of the iron sheet 31 is covered by the seam 35 in a width of 3 mm, which corresponds to 1.5 times the thickness of the iron sheet. According to claims 8 and 10 of the present invention, the width of the solder seam amounts to at least three times the thickness of the iron sheet, in other words more than twice that of Bertels. In view of such a difference, Bertels cannot anticipate the present invention. In Bertels, there is nothing to indicate that the connecting seam should be widened by more than double on the side of the iron sheet, in order to improve the connection between the aluminum sheet and the iron sheet. Instead, it is made obvious to a person skilled in the art that additional mechanical connections should be created, as they are shown in Fig. 3, 4, and 5a to 5c of Bertels.

Accordingly, Bertels can by no means anticipate claim 8. This applies analogously also for claim 10. Fig. 6 of Bertels merely shows attempts at checking the strength of the connecting seam 35, whereby the connecting seam 35 remains undeformed. Claim 10 has also been amended to recite that the connected sheets are cold-deformed with deformation of the connecting seam. This is not taught or suggested by Bertels.

Applicants submit that independent claims 8 and 10, as well as the dependent claims, are patentable over the cited references, taken either singly or in combination. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

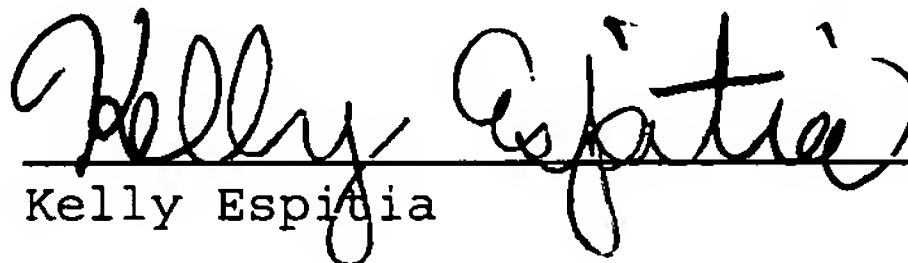
Respectfully submitted,
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